

## Looking at Pictures—Carefully

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Teachers are always looking for ways to encourage students to think about their work. They spend time teaching thoughtful consideration of their texts, even before they introduce analytical skills. Even the youngest student can be taught to approach pictures in the same thoughtful way.

I have revised an observation sheet (see page 12) originally developed for the American Memory Fellows Institute in 1997 for use by younger children. Teachers may wish to use the questions as guides for their own work with the youngest children, post the questions on a blackboard, or print out the sheet for older students to use as a worksheet. Other versions of this tool can be found in American Memory at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/99/jacob/photo.html>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/97/market/photo.html>

The observation sheet might be used with a single photo to model an approach or with a number of photographs that will introduce and support a unit. The American Memory collection contains hundreds of photographs of possible interest to young children and connected to their other studies. As a sample, the box below

lists a dozen photographs about schools, dating from the late 1800s to 1981.

You can make your own collection. Search American Memory, limiting your search to "Photos and Prints." Use keywords that connect to your unit and tell the search engine to use all words. Most pictures can be enlarged and printed out on any paper for student use. Laminating your "photos," of course, will make them last much longer, if you have the equipment.



**Southington, Connecticut. Southington school children staging a patriotic demonstration** [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@filreg\(@field\(NUMBER+@band\(fsa+8d45219\)\)+@field\(COLLID+fsa\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@filreg(@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8d45219))+@field(COLLID+fsa)))

- [Florissant School](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10008452))
- [Custer County, Nebraska](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/psbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(p10993))
- [Hacks bringing children to the State Normal School, Kearney, Nebraska](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/psbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(p13719))
- [Supai Indian School, children at dinner, Cataract Canon, Arizona](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10030962))
- [Playground Towaoc](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10030656))
- [Grade School](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10014128))
- [Rural school near Milton, North Dakota, 1913 : Miss Margaret McKay, teacher](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfahult+b369))
- [Schools. Interior with children painting, reading and playing](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gottscho:@field(NUMBER+@band(gsc+5a00389))
- [White Plains, Greene County, Georgia. The three-teacher Negro school](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8c07405))
- [Southington, Connecticut. Southington school children staging a patriotic demonstration](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8d45219))+@field(COLLID+fsa))
- [Colville children pose in classroom for portrait of the 4th & 5th graders, St. Mary's Mission School, Omak, Washington, 1959](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aipn:@field(DOCID+@lit(p500))
- [Children Beside School Bus](#)  
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ncr:@field(DOCID+@lit(n46476))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Looking at Pictures Worksheet

***Questions About Your Picture***

What You See	What You Know	What You Think
Describe exactly what you see in the photograph:	Tell what you already know about the time the picture was taken.	What do you conclude about this picture:
What people do you see?	Tell what you already know about the place where the picture was taken.	What's going on in the picture?
What things do you see?	Tell what you already know about the people in the picture.	Who are the people?
How are the people and things arranged in the picture?	Tell what you already know about the things you see in the picture.	What are they doing?
Where was the picture taken?		What do you think the things you see in this picture were used for?
What other details can you see?		What would it be like to live in this time and place?
		How is this picture different from your own experience?

**Further Research:**

What other questions do you have about this picture?

What are some sources you can use to find answers?